

BOROUGH OF CALNE


REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER, 1937



Public Health Officers of the Authority.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:—

I. B. Lawrence, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H., who in addition holds the post of
Assistant County Medical Officer for Wiltshire.
Tel: Trowbridge 514.

SANITARY INSPECTOR:—

T. V. Oliver, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., etc., who in
addition holds the post of Borough Surveyor.
Tel: Calne 101.

VETERINARY INSPECTOR:—

C. H. Ducksbury, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M.
Tel: Calne 61.

Borough of Calne

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ending 31st December, 1937

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
BOROUGH OF CALNE

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Public Health of this Borough, which has been compiled in accordance with the directions contained in Circular 1650 of the Ministry of Health.

I. General Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

Area	1276 acres
Population—	
By Census, 1931	approximately 4563
As calculated by the Registrar-General for the purpose of Vital Statistics (Residents)	4808
Number of Inhabited Houses, Census 1931 (Old Area)	970
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1931, (Old area)	967
Number of Inhabited Houses end of 1937 according to Rate Book	1423
Rateable Value at December 31st, 1937	£24738
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	£95 3 2.3

Social conditions —

The principal industry in Calne is bacon curing, together with the manufacture of sausages, pies and potted foods of various descriptions, carried on by Messrs. C. & T. Harris (Calne) Ltd. This affords employment to the greater part of the working class inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood. The firm has also one of the most up-to-date by-products plants in the country, which is run entirely without nuisance.

The other industries are those which are usually carried on in a country town, such as corn milling, agricultural implement making, etc., and, in the added area, dairy farming.

Neither the situation of the town, the nature of the soil, nor the occupations of the inhabitants, can be said to have any particular influence on public health.

II. Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Live Births—

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	74	34	40
Illegitimate	4	3	1

Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population
16.22

Stillbirths —

Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births — 0.00

	Total	Males	Females
Deaths	63	30	33

Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population
13.1

Deaths from puerperal causes : —

	Deaths.	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis	—	0.00
Other puerperal causes	—	0.00
Total	—	0.00

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1000 live births	25.64
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	25.64
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	0.00

NOTE. In making the above calculations the comparability factor of 0.80 has been disregarded in each case.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	12
Deaths from Influenza (all ages)	6
Deaths from Respiratory Diseases (9, 19, 20, 21)	12
Deaths from Diseases of the Heart and Blood Vessels, (15, 16, 17, 18)	23
„ „ Measles (all ages)	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year, neither is there any evidence that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities—**

The arrangements at Salisbury Infirmary, provided by the County Council, continue unchanged. Advantage was taken of this arrangement in connection with the examination of swabs following the outbreak of tonsillitis during the summer.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities—**

- (i) Infectious cases. A motor ambulance is stationed at the Chippenham and Malmesbury Isolation Hospital at Chippenham, of which the Borough of Calne is a constituent authority.
- (ii) For non-infectious and accident cases, a motor ambulance is provided by the local Nursing Association.

(c) **Nursing in the Home—**

- (i) General Nursing. This is provided by the Calne Nursing Association and is in every way satisfactory.

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics—**

Orthopædic Clinic. At Corsham Nursing Home on Wednesday mornings. This is a voluntary organisation but the services of the Surgeon and Nurses are provided by the County Council.

Ante-natal and Infant Welfare. At Corsham Nursing Home on the 2nd and 4th Friday afternoons of each month. The Clinic is staffed by one of the Assistant Medical Officers of the Wilts County Council and by the Matron and Nurses from the Home.

Tuberculosis Dispensary (Wilts County Council.)
At the Halve, Trowbridge, every Wednesday from 10.0 a.m. to 1 p.m. A previous appointment is not required.

Venereal Disease Clinics.

Free Consultations are held as under :—

County Council Clinic, The Halve, Trowbridge.

Men.

Women.

Thursday, 5—6.30 p.m.

Tuesday, 5—6.30 p.m.

The Infirmary, (Skin Dept.) Salisbury.

Men.

Women.

Tuesday, 11.30—1.0 p.m.

Wednesday, 6—7.30 p.m.

Friday, 6—7.30 p.m.

Saturday, 11.30 a.m.—1 p.m.

Isolation Hospital, Gorse Hill, Swindon.

Men.

Women.

Wednesday, 7—8.30 p.m.

Monday, 5—6.30 p.m.

Friday, 6—7.30 p.m.

Friday, 2—3.30 p.m.

Clinics for the diagnosis and treatment of—

1. Ear, Nose and Throat
2. Eye, and
3. Cardiac Defects

are available for all elementary and secondary school-children, and in most cases for children under school age, through the County Council Scheme.

Hospitals—

As stated previously, Calne is a constituent authority of the Chippenham and Malmesbury Joint Isolation Hospital. In addition to the ordinary notifiable diseases, admission can often be secured for pneumonia or for cases of non-notifiable infectious diseases. The existence of several single and double-bedded rooms, quite apart from the ordinary wards renders the possibility of cross infection unlikely.

Maternity and Child Welfare—

(i) Midwifery and Maternity Services.

There is one midwife in the area, who is working under the County Council Scheme through the Calne Nursing Association, and a grant is received from the County Council in respect of this service.

(ii) Institutional provisions for Mothers or Children.

None exist within the area.

(iii) Health Visitors and School Nurses.

Duties carried out by midwife and by County Council Health Visitor.

(iv) Child Life Protection.

No facilities within the area other than the N.S.P.C.C. Inspector, who, however, does some very useful work and carries out his duties with considerable tact and discretion.

Registered Maternity and other Nursing Homes within the Borough.

None exist.

Mortuary Accommodation—

A Memorandum from the County Medical Officer of Health has been received stating that—

“the public Assistance Committee has provided a Mortuary with post-mortem room and viewing room at the Chippenham Public Assistance Institution and that the Committee is willing that this accommodation should be used for the purposes of a public Mortuary for bodies from outside the Institution. It is desirable that, if possible, the Master be informed previous to the admission of bodies, in order that he may see that all facilities are available.”

This is a very satisfactory solution to the problem which has claimed the attention of the Town Council on many occasions in the past.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Rainfall—

Mr. P. W. Phillips of “Ridgeway,” Calne, who keeps an official record for the Air Ministry, has kindly supplied the information from which the following table has been compiled:—

Month.	Total Rainfall.	Greatest fall in 24 Hours		Number of days with .01 or more recorded.
	Inches.	Inches.	Date.	
January	3.89	.45	25th	18
February	5.65	.85	26th	20
March	3.24	.55	13th	16
April	3.78	1.52	10th	17
May	2.19	.61	27th	11
June	1.34	.43	11th	9
July	1.90	.90	15th	9
August	.67	.28	15th	5
September	2.80	.90	17th	12
October	4.22	1.48	22nd	11
November	1.29	.45	22nd	9
December	2.53	.41	1st	19
	33.48	—	—	156

In the previous year August was the driest month with a rainfall of 0.36 inches, and July the wettest month, with 4.54 inches.

During 1937 there were two absolute droughts, July 25th to August 10th, and October 7th to 21st. A dry spell occurred from September 25th to October 21st. During February, 19 wet days were recorded, this being more than any other month.

There is also a rain gauge at the Sewage Outfall Works at Conigre, which is read at 9.0 a.m. daily. These figures shew a total rainfall of 33.00 inches.

The average for the three previous years was 32.63 inches.

Water Supply—

Water is supplied to the Borough, and certain portions of the parish of Calne Without immediately adjoining, by the Calne Waterworks Company, except in a few isolated cases.

The water is obtained from Lower Greensand springs at Calstone Wellington, about 3 miles to the south-east of the town.

Within the last four or five years the Water Company have constructed, at the source, a service reservoir of approximately 27,000 gallons capacity, and have put down duplicate pumping plant. They have also extended their mains where necessary.

Notwithstanding these improvements, complaints have been received of shortage of water in the higher parts of the Borough, particularly at week-ends. The effect, too, of the new main in the Oxford Road area, has been to increase the hydraulic gradient, thus depleting the North End area of some of their former supply.

The Town Council, both as the health authority and as the largest individual property owners in the district, have taken up this state of affairs with the Water Company from time to time, and the latter have now applied for a Provisional Order, inter alia, to increase their supply at the source.

At the close of the year the Company were also laying a 9 in. main to augment their existing 6 in. supply and so increase the supply to the town generally.

The water is of good quality, non-plumbo solvent, and has 31 degrees of total hardness. Nevertheless, a water supply which is distributed for consumption without the usual precautions of aeration, filtration, chlorination, etc., needs carefully watching.

The consumption per capita per diem is now estimated at 18 gallons for domestic purposes and 4 gallons for trade purposes, making a total of 22 gallons.

The actual number of houses relying on well water for their domestic supply is 78, or 5.48 % of the total number of houses in the district. This percentage is gradually being reduced and it will be the policy of the Town Council, in future, to have samples of water from every well analysed, and if found unsuitable for domestic purposes, the wells concerned will be closed.

Drainage and Sewerage—

The sewer at Quemerford was completed during the year and practically the whole of the developed portion of the

Borough is now sewered, although there will always, of necessity, be a few houses, mostly isolated, which either drain into cesspools or are provided with earth closets.

Approximately 1,576 yards of main and branch sewers were laid during the year and 131 houses connected thereto.

The mileage of the town sewers is now eight, and the length of Outfall sewer is approximately two miles.

Sewage Disposal—

The Outfall Works are situated at Conigre, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the north-west of the town, and within the Rural District of Calne and Chippenham.

These works were modernised in 1928 at a cost of approximately £19,000 and consist of detritus chambers and continuous flow sedimentation tanks, in duplicate, four filters with rotary sprinklers fed from a central dosing chamber by automatic syphons: humus tanks and digestion tanks together with a 9 h.p. Blackstone Diesel oil engine with “unchokeable” sludge pump to raise the sludge, which is afterwards dried on sludge beds and subsequently burnt to a fine red ash.

A Lea Recorder is provided at the inlet to the works and the average daily dry weather flow is about a quarter of a million gallons, thus showing a not inconsiderable ingress of subsoil water.

The sewage effluent, which discharges into the River Marden just below Hazeland Mill and about 1 mile below the Outfall Works, is usually of a fair standard.

A sample taken on the 22nd of July, by Dr. Lowe, deputy Medical Officer of Health for the County, showed the following analysis:

Free and Saline Ammonia	0.86	parts per 100,000
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.20	do.
Chlorine	63.90	do.
Oxygen absorbed (4 hours)	1.60	do.
Nitrogen as Nitrates	3.28	do.
Dissolved Solids	161.50	do.
Solids in suspension	4.30	do.

Total Solids 165.8

Dissolved oxygen absorbed after 5 days incubation—
1.68 parts per 100,000

“except for the suspended solids being over 3 parts, this is a good effluent. It is well nitrated.”

The percentage of purification in this case is 75.57.

Considering the large proportion of trade waste from Messrs. C. & T. Harris' Bacon Factory compared with the

amount of domestic sewage these results may be considered most satisfactory.

Rivers and Streams—

No serious pollution of the River Marden has taken place within the Urban district. Indeed, from the number of houses connected to the new sewers this year, the position should be considerably improved.

The last sample of river water taken for analysis, at a point near Chivvy Well Bridge—which is below the town and some 200 yards from the last possible source of any trade or domestic pollution, shewed the sample to fall into the category of “Fairly Clean Rivers,”—based upon the Royal Commission standard.

The Marden, as far as Quemerford Bridge, is within the area controlled by the River Avon (Bristol) Catchment Board as regards flood prevention. The Board, by an arrangement entered into a few years ago with the millers and other interested persons, with regard to raising the various hatches along the river’s course during heavy and/or continuous rain, have safeguarded the town, as far as possible, from unnecessary flooding.

Closet Accommodation—

As mentioned earlier in this Report, the Urban portion of the added area has now been sewered.

The number of houses not connected to the town sewers is 127, of which number no sewer is reasonably available for 49, leaving 78 to be dealt with as nuisances arise.

Public Cleansing—

The refuse from some 1,420 houses is collected weekly from receptacles placed on the kerbside by the householders. This work is done under Contract, the Contractor providing a properly equipped motor vehicle.

The Contractor also provides the tip, which is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the town in a north-easterly direction and in

the adjoining Rural District. The refuse is covered immediately after disposal and no complaint as to nuisance therefrom has arisen.

Owing to the growth of the Borough the weekly collection is now spread over three days, instead of two as heretofore.

Every householder was again circularised in the early part of the year and urged to provide a proper galvanised dustbin (where this had not already been done), and at the same time to burn as much refuse as possible, and not deposit wet rubbish in the dustbin.

It was also pointed out that a reduction of 2 lbs. weight per dustbin per week would result in a decrease of 65 tons per annum of putrescible matter to be collected from the whole town. The cost of collection and disposal is 5/9 per house per annum, which compares very favourably with other districts.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following is a summary of the year's work under Article 27, (18) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935 :—

General Information.

Dwelling houses inspected	...	...	294
Re-inspections and visits	...	...	168
Inspections for Housing Records	...	...	109
Registered and Licensed Premises inspected	...	...	236
Number of New Building Inspections	...	...	72
Number of inspections of Sewage Works, Sewer Extensions and Drainage Systems	...	...	305
Miscellaneous sanitary duties involving visits	...	...	232
Complaints received and inspected	...	...	39
Houses disinfected	...	...	5
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	—
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	—
Number of letters sent and received	...	...	260
Number of interviews with owners, etc.	...	...	33
Number of samples of sewage effluent taken and analysed	...	...	1
Number of samples of river water taken and analysed	...	...	1

Number of well water analyses	...	...	2
Number of Town water analyses	...	...	1
Number of samples of milk taken and analysed			2
Number of improvements carried out	...		1111

The tabulated List of Improvements is as follows :—

Number of existing houses connected to Main drainage system	...	...	...	124
Number of New Houses connected to Main drainage system	...	...		36
Number of New Houses connected to Town Water Supply	...	...	...	38
Number of existing houses connected to Town Water Supply	...	...	...	2
Drains cleansed	...	...	...	39
Drains new and relaid (lengths tested and approved)	...	...	...	195
Connections to sewer inspected and approved	...			69
Conversions of vaults and pail closets to water carriage system	...	...		63
Houses previously drained into cesspools, etc., connected to town sewers	...	...		59
W.C. pans renewed	...	...	...	2
Ditto, cleansed	...	...	...	—
Flushing cisterns provided	...	...		66
Sinks provided	...	...	...	49
Floors repaired (or relaid)	...	...		6
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	12
Spouting or guttering repaired	...	...		5
New E.C. buckets supplied	...	...		—
Plastering repaired	...	...	...	5
Houses decorated	...	...	...	15
Houses cleansed	...	...	...	—
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	38
Water fittings repaired and renewed	...			80
Waste pipes repaired	...		...	8
Polluted wells closed	...	...	...	2
Accumulations of manure removed	...	...		1
Nuisance from Rats and Mice abated	...			47
Overcrowding dealt with	...	...		8
Sanitary dustbins provided	...	...		36
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	106

I.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	9		
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	6	Nil	Nil
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' Premises)	11		
Total	26	—	—

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
(1)				
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i> *				
Want of cleanliness	...	...		...
Want of ventilation	...	...		...
Overcrowding	...	...		...
Want of Drainage of floors	...	...		...
Other nuisances	...	...		...
Sanitary accommodation	{ insufficient unsuitable or defective not separate for sexes	...		...
	
	
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other Offences	...	...		...
Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total	—	—	—	—

* Including those specified in sections, 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

3 Home Work Outworkers' Lists.
Nil.

by advertisement in the local press, and the display, in the local Cinema, of the Ministry's sound version of the Film "Your Enemy the Rat."

Owners and occupiers of Rat infested premises were circularised, and Rat Biscuits of a non-poisonous character to domestic animals were issued where required, and placed in the rat holes or "runs" with beneficial results.

The Town refuse tip is outside the district but this, as well as the sewage farm, is under the supervision of the Borough Sanitary Inspector, and both are baited with Rat Biscuits as occasion requires.

It is very noticeable how the general public are becoming more conscious of their responsibilities under the above Act and more anxious to rid their premises of these vermin than they were a few years ago.

Shops Act, 1934.

All premises have been inspected under this Act, which came into operation on the 30th December, 1934. No Statutory action has been necessary.

Smoke Abatement.

The difficulty experienced in the past regarding the emission of gritty particles from one of the factory chimneys in the town appears to have been satisfactorily overcome.

No Bye-laws under the Public Health Act, 1936, are at present in force in the town.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

The Town Council own a swimming bath of some 37,450 gallons capacity, erected in 1896, between Quemerford and Calne. The dressing-rooms, etc., are of corrugated iron construction and the bath is filled twice a week, during the season, direct from the River Marden by damming the flow at this point.

There is no heating apparatus, no foot baths or sprays, no system for loaning towels or bathing costumes, and the

sanitary accommodation consists of two earth closets, in fact the whole construction and facilities (or lack of them) are of the crudest possible kind.

With regard to the purity of the water, whilst the Ministry of Health have not yet laid down any standard for purity of swimming bath water, the generally accepted figure for river water suitable for bathing purposes is that the water shall not contain B. Coli in any volume less than 10 cubic centimetres, whereas a sample taken on 30th June last contained that organism in one hundredth of the amount suggested.

The Council's attention was drawn to this state of affairs and a recommendation made to the effect that the Baths should not be re-opened until a purification plant was installed. However, after discussion the Council decided to re-open the Baths, as hitherto, and to continue to treat the water with "Chloros," by a method which I consider to be both crude and unreliable.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No houses in the district are known to be infested with bed bugs.

However, if the need arose disinfestation would be carried out by the Local Authority by spraying the house and its contents with one of the well-known proprietary articles such as "Zaldecide."

Schools.

All the public elementary schools in the district are now in good sanitary condition and connected with the town water supply and main drainage system.

The Senior School in Silver Street is a modern building and serves as a central school for the Borough of Calne and surrounding villages.

During the year the sanitary convenience at one of the two Infants' Schools were modernised.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1937.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	294
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	462
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. ...	109
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	186
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	—
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	37

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	37
---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 ;	
(i)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By owners ...	—
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	—
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
	(a) By owners ...	—
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

(c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 ;	
(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
(d)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 ;	
(i)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(ii)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.	—

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV Overcrowding :—

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	1
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	1
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	9
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	8
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	8
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	61
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.	—
(e)		Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.	—

Twenty-five houses were erected by private enterprise during the year, including 13 on a new building estate. This will not, however, relieve the Town Council of their responsibility to provide houses for the working-classes.

The scheme for the erection of five bungalows for aged persons was completed at the end of January, making thirteen such bungalows in all. A further eight non-parlour three bedroom type houses are in course of erection and, when

completed, the number of Council houses in the district will be 233. The corporation also own three other houses, and the Gas and Electricity Department four. There are also eight almshouses in the district.

In addition, the Town Council are interested in 71 houses on which subsidies have been granted under the Housing Acts of 1923 and 1924, and eight in respect of which loans have been granted under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts (which the Council adopted this year,) so that they are financially interested, either directly or indirectly, in no less than 22½% of the total number of houses in the district.

Nevertheless, the Corporation contemplate embarking on a further scheme in the North End area during the coming summer to meet the normal growth of the Borough, as well as to replace houses which are the subject of representations under Slum Clearance Schemes.

The following is a summary up to the 31st December of the cumulative action taken under the Housing Act, 1930, and the corresponding Provisions in the Housing Act, 1936.

Number of insanitary houses demolished under section 19	...	...	11
Number of persons displaced	...	...	42
Number of dwelling-houses made fit (Sections 17 to 20)	...	...	3
Number of insanitary houses demolished in anticipation of formal action under Section 19	...	...	18
Number of insanitary houses closed (but not demolished) on an undertaking (which has not been cancelled) of the owner under Section 19	...	...	9
Number of houses made fit as the result of Informal Notice preliminary to formal notice under Section 17	...	...	110

As in previous years improvements were carried out as a result of personal interviews or letters in lieu of Informal and Statutory Notices, as this has been found to maintain a more friendly spirit and ready response.

Rent and Mortgage Interest and Restrictions Act, 1923.

No application for a certificate under this Act was received during the year.

INSPECTION AND PROVISION OF FOODS

A. Milk Supply :—

There is an ample supply of pure and wholesome milk available.

The milk shops generally, are kept clean and sanitary, and the cans, vehicles, &c. for distributing milk are kept in good order.

There is one producer of Accredited Milk in the district, one retailer is licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk, one to bottle and sell Accredited milk, and one retailer is licensed to sell Pasteurized milk, produced in a neighbouring district.

During August an epidemic of tonsillitis was experienced.

At first the town milk supply was suspected, but intensive inquiry, examinations of samples, and throat swabs from persons engaged in the trade, gave negative results. However, the sanitary condition of one of the dairies was under suspicion.

That has now been dealt with and no further outbreak has occurred.

Milk is supplied daily, during sessions to the Secondary School, Senior, Junior and Infants' Schools in the town by a farmer in the adjoining Rural District.

No action has been required as regards tuberculous milk or tuberculous cattle. No tuberculous person so far as is known is employed in the milk trade.

There are six cowkeepers in the district and the number of cows normally in milk is about 80.

B. Meat :—

Meat inspection has been carried out regularly throughout the year and the weight of meat condemned was 17 cwts. All voluntarily surrendered.

By arrangements with Messrs. C. & T. Harris (Calne) Ltd., any condemned carcasses of meat or parts thereof, either seized or voluntarily surrendered in the Borough, are destroyed at their By-products plant.

In the district there is one of the largest firms of wholesale butchers in the West of England, who regularly send meat, chiefly veal, to Smithfield Market.

The Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, has been carefully observed. The Council have, by resolution, made Section 1 applicable to sheep.

There are 27 Licensed slaughtermen in the district.

It was again found necessary on one or two occasions to call the attention of the employees of a firm of Meat Transport

Contractors to the fact that they must systematically use the proper head-coverings provided by their employers, as required by the Meat Regulations.

Shops and vehicles for the sale or conveyance of meat are frequently inspected.

There are two Registered and three Licensed slaughter-houses in the district, but no public slaughter-house or knacker's yard.

Mr. C. H. Ducksbury, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M., acts as a whole time Veterinary Inspector of the animals slaughtered at the Bacon Factories. The animals are inspected both before and after slaughter. He performs his duties with the utmost care, and all diseased carcasses or parts of carcasses are condemned. A weekly report of all condemned meat is sent to the Medical Officer of Health.

There is no Meat Marketing Scheme under Part III of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

Calne Market has been approved as a Certification Centre for the grading and sale of Fat Cattle under the Livestock Industry Act, 1937.

C. Other Foods :—

Other premises, such as bakehouses, provision stores, etc., where food is prepared or sold, have been visited from time to time and no unsatisfactory conditions were found to exist.

The County Council are the responsible authority under the various Food and Drugs, etc., Acts.

No case of food poisoning has been reported.

One 7-lb. tin of jellied veal was destroyed as unfit for human consumption.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases Generally :—

Examinations of Swabs, Blood and Sputum are paid for by the Authority and full use is made of this arrangement.

The Dick test for Scarlet fever and the method of immunization against Scarlet fever have not been used.

No vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health Small Pox Prevention Regulations, 1927.

The School authorities regularly notify all cases of these diseases which occur among the school children and the Medical Officer of Health investigates accordingly.

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)
during 1937.**

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2	2	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—
Pneumonia	15	6	9
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Malaria	1	1	—
Other diseases generally notifiable			
Other diseases notifiable locally			

Cancer :—

In co-operation with the Radium Centre at the Royal Infirmary, Bristol, the County Council hold Clinics at :—

- (i) The Halve, Trowbridge, at 11.0 a.m every third Thursday.
- (ii) Swindon Victoria Hospital, at 11.0 a.m on the first Thursday of each month.

Prevention of Blindness :—

There are no special local facilities for dealing with this.

Tuberculosis :—

The following Hospitals are provided by the County Council :—

- (i) Winsley Sanatorium.
- (ii) Harnham (Salisbury) Sanatorium.

The following Table shews the notifications at the various age periods and also the mortality at the same periods:

Age periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5			1					
15								
25	1			1	1			
35								
45								
55								
65 and upwards								
	1		1	1	1			

No action has been required under the Public Health (Prevention of tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,
I. B. LAWRENCE,
Medical Officer of Health.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1937.

{ England and Wales, London, 125 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales	125 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County	Borough of Calne
	Rate per 1,000 population.				
Births :—					
Live ...	14. 9	14. 9	15. 3	13. 3	16.22
Still ...	0.60	0.67	0.64	0.54	0.00
Deaths :—					
All Causes ...	12. 4	12. 5	11. 9	12. 3	13. 1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers }	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.00
Scarlet fever ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Whooping Cough ...	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.06	0.00
Diphtheria ...	0.07	0.08	0.05	0.05	0.00
Influenza ...	0.45	0.39	0.42	0.38	1.25
Violence ...	0.54	0.45	0.42	0.51	0.00
Notifications :—					
Smallpox ...	0.00	—	0.00	—	—
Scarlet fever ...	2.33	2.56	2.42	2.09	0.62
Diphtheria ...	1.49	1.81	1.38	1.93	0.00
Enteric fever ...	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.00
Erysipelas ...	0.37	0.43	0.34	0.44	0.20
Pneumonia ...	1.36	1.58	1.20	1.18	3.12
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths under 1 year of age	58	62	55	60	25.64
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age }	5. 8	7. 9	3. 2	12. 0	0.00
Maternal Mortality :—					
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0.97	Not available			0.00
Others ...	2.26				0.00
Total ...	3.23				0.00
	Rates per 1,000 total Births (i.e. Live and Still)				
Maternal Mortality :—					
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0.94	Not available			0.00
Others ...	2.17				0.00
Total ...	3.11				0.00
Notifications :—					
Puerperal fever Puerperal pyrexia }	13.93	17.59	11.52	{ 4.15 14.34	25.64

